

Dear CT Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Members,

I am opposed to proposed House bill 5653.

This proposal is just another example of legislation aimed at punishing the law-abiding citizens who own guns and responsibly handle those guns.

Those who illegally (felons) own guns and use them to commit crimes don't care about the law.

Less than 1% of crimes are committed by legal gun owners and only taxing responsible gun owning citizens for a program that aims to "fund grants through the community gun violence intervention and prevention program" doesn't address the many other issues associated with gun violence, such as those with mental health challenges, veterans with severe untreated depression and lack of enforcement of the existing laws for those who break the law.

Gun and archery owners already pay a state sales tax and federal excise tax on equipment and ammunition through the Pittman Robertson Act and the almost 10 billion dollars raised since 1938 contribute to safe hunter safety programs, land purchases for habitat protection and improvement and wildlife restoration throughout our country. Connecticut receives its share annually from that federal excise tax.

Proposed bill 5653 is just another tax on ammunition to our law-abiding gun owning citizens and will do little to address the criminals who commit gun violence crimes.

Sincerely,  
Richard L Taylor, Jr.  
Clinton